

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising using at least one protectin (CD59) or protectin precursor production activator in a cosmetic composition or for preparing a composition intended to limit the side-effects of complement activation on the skin, mucosae and/or scalp.
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2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the composition is intended for application to the skin, mucosae and/or scalp.
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3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the activator or composition is intended to reinforce the resistance of the skin and/or hair follicles.
4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the composition is a soothing and/or anti-irritant composition.
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5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the activator or composition is intended to prevent, diminish or treat erythema.
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6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the erythema is a solar erythema.
7. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the activator or composition is intended to treat seborrhoeic skin and acne-affected skin.
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8. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the activator or composition is intended to treat sensitive skin.
9. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the activator or composition is intended to prevent or treat canities.

10. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the composition is intended to treat at least one condition selected from the group consisting of herpes, psoriasis, allergy, seborrhoeic dermatitis, a disorder caused by *Pityrosporum ovale*, urticaria and a maladjustment of the complement activation system.
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11. A method comprising using at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a bacterial extract, especially extracts of non-photosynthetic filamentous bacteria, ginseng extracts, especially saponins and ginsenosides, derivatives thereof and mixtures thereof to prepare a composition intended to stimulate the production of protectin or a protectin precursor by skin cells.
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12. Cosmetic, dermatocosmetic or dermatological composition comprising at least one protectin or protectin precursor production activator, with the proviso that, if the activator is a total extract of *Vitreoscilla filiformis*, it is combined with at least one other protectin or protectin precursor activator.
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13. Composition according to Claim 12, wherein the protectin or protectin precursor production activator is selected from the group consisting of bacterial extracts, especially extracts of non-photosynthetic filamentous bacteria, ginseng extracts, especially saponins and ginsenosides, derivatives thereof and mixtures thereof.
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14. Composition according to Claim 12, further comprising at least one keratinocyte protectin or protectin precursor production activator in combination with at least one fibroblast protectin or protectin precursor production activator.
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15. Composition according to Claim 14, wherein the keratinocyte protectin or protectin precursor production activator is an extract of non-photosynthetic

filamentous bacteria and the fibroblast protectin or protectin precursor production activator is selected from the group consisting of an extract of *Panax ginseng*, an extract of *Panax notoginseng*, an extract of *Panax quinquefolium* and an extract of *Panax japonicus*.

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16. Composition according to Claim 12, wherein the composition is in the form of an aqueous or aqueous-alcoholic lotion or solution, an aqueous, aqueous-alcoholic or oily dispersion or suspension, an oil-in-water emulsion, a water-in-oil emulsion, or a gel of liquid, pastelike, semi-solid or solid consistency.

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17. Composition according to Claim 12, further comprising microspheres and/or nanospheres.

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18. Composition according to Claim 12, further comprising at least one active ingredient having an irritant effect.

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19. Composition according to Claim 18, wherein the active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of an α -hydroxy acid, especially a glycolic, a lactic, a malic, a citric, a tartaric and a mandelic acid, a β -hydroxy acid (salicylic acid and its derivatives), an α -keto acid, a β -keto acid, a retinoid such as retinol and its esters, a retinal, a retinoic acid and its derivatives, an anthralin such as dioxyanthranol, an anthranoid, a peroxide, a minoxidil, a lithium salt, an antimetabolite, a vitamin D and its derivatives, a hair dye or a colorant such as a para-phenylenediamine and its derivatives, an aminophenol, a fragrant alcoholic solution, an antiperspirant, an aluminum salt, a depilatory active, a perming active, a depigmenting agent and an anti-louse active.

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20. Method of selecting a product capable of protecting cell membranes, utilizable according to Claim 1, the method comprising contacting a test product

with skin cells and comparing the proportion of protectin or protectin precursor produced by the skin cells with the production rate of control skin cells which have not been contacted with the test product.

- 5 21. Method according to Claim 20, further comprising selecting products having anti-irritant effects based on the results of the comparison.
- 10 22. Method according to Claim 20, further comprising selecting cell extracts enriched in terms of protectin activity, such as, for example, epidermal carpets which can be used as better-tolerated skin grafts.
- 15 23. Cosmetic method of enhancing the skin's resistance to the effects of non-specific complement activation, the method comprising topically applying at least one protectin or protectin precursor production activator selected by the method of Claim 20.